

EPO - DG 1

17

12. 08. 2005

CLAIMS:

(51)

1. A mousetrap comprising:

an enclosure comprised of a top, a base and apertures
5 located on each of the top and the base, wherein the
enclosure is in an open position upon substantial
alignment of the apertures; and

a trigger mechanism comprising a lever arrangement
and a biasing means operably connected to the top and the
10 base, wherein the lever arrangement defines a gap,

wherein the enclosure, when in the open position, is
able to admit the mouse into the enclosure and when in the
closed position, the trapped mouse is substantially
concealed within the enclosure,

15 the mousetrap being set to trap the mouse by manual
rotation of the top relative to the base to open the
enclosure by substantial alignment of the apertures, the
enclosure being held open against the force of the biasing
means by engagement of the lever arrangement with a stop
20 means,

the mousetrap being activated to trap the mouse by
the raising of the lever arrangement in response to the
mouse moving through the gap thereby disengaging the lever
arrangement from the stop means and causing the top to
25 contra-rotate relative to the base under the force of the
biasing means so as to close the enclosure, thereby
trapping the mouse and substantially concealing the
trapped mouse within the enclosure.

30 2. The mousetrap according to claim 1 further comprising
a strike plate connected to the top and extending
substantially at right angles to an internal wall of the

enclosure such that upon rotation of the top relative to the base under the action of the biasing means, the strike plate rotates with the top and contacts the mouse.

3. The mousetrap according to claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising a catch plate connected to the base and extending substantially at right angles to an internal wall of the enclosure such that upon contra-rotation of the top relative to the base under the action of the biasing means, the strike plate rotates with the top and contacts the mouse to trap the mouse between the strike plate and the catch plate.

4. The mousetrap according to claim 1 wherein the stop means also serves as a strike plate, the strike plate being connected to the top and extending substantially at right angles to an internal wall of the enclosure such that upon contra-rotation of the top relative to the base under the action of the biasing means, the strike plate rotates with the top and contacts the mouse.

5. The mousetrap according to claim 4 further comprising a catch plate connected to the base and extending substantially at right angles to an internal wall of the enclosure such that upon contra-rotation of the top relative to the base under the action of the biasing means, the strike plate rotates with the top and contacts the mouse to trap the mouse between the strike plate and the catch plate.

6. The mousetrap according to claim 5 wherein the strike plate and/or catch plate may further include one or more projections.

5 7. The mousetrap according to claim 6 wherein the projections are in the form of angular kinks in the strike and/or catch plate profiles.

8. The mousetrap according to claim 6 in which the
10 projections are in the form of spikes thereby impaling the mouse upon contact.

9. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding claims in which at least a section of the base and top is
15 circular.

10. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding claims in which the enclosure is circular in shape.

20 11. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding claims in which the mousetrap is reusable and therefore able to be disassembled so as to allow the removal of a trapped mouse prior to resetting the mousetrap.

25 12. The mousetrap according to any of the preceding claims in which the biasing means is a helical torsion spring.

13. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding
30 claims further comprising a bait housing.

14. The mousetrap according to claim 13 wherein the bait housing is located in the centre of the enclosure.

15. The mousetrap according to claim 13 or claim 14
5 wherein the bait housing is able to be loaded with bait from the underside of the enclosure base.

16. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 13 to 15
10 in which the bait housing is configured so that the bait is physically isolated from the enclosure wherein the bait housing comprises one or more vents to allow the bait to be sensed by the mouse.

17. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 13 to 16
15 wherein the bait housing further includes one or more spikes that assist in maintaining the bait within the bait housing.

18. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding
20 claims wherein the mousetrap is provided to a consumer with bait located within the bait housing.

19. The mousetrap according to any one of the preceding
25 claims wherein the base further includes a lip adapted to fit around the top of another mousetrap thereby allowing two or more mousetraps to be stacked.

20. A mousetrap comprising an enclosure having an aperture through which a mouse enters and an enclosure floor;
30 the mousetrap further comprising a trap mechanism disposed within the enclosure;

the trap mechanism comprising at least a biasing means, a trigger and a trap wire with the trap wire being connected to the biasing means and arranged so as to allow the trap wire to be set, through engagement with the trigger, to a first position against the force of the biasing means in which the mousetrap is set to trap a mouse;

the trap mechanism being arranged such that entry of the mouse into the enclosure and depression of the trigger by the mouse causes the trigger to disengage from the trap wire which, through the force of the biasing means, is caused to move from the first position to a second position thereby trapping the mouse between the trap wire and the floor,

wherein the trigger and aperture are arranged so as to substantially conceal and isolate the trapped mouse from an external environment.

21. The mousetrap according to claim 20 wherein the trap mechanism further comprises a trap base.

22. The mousetrap according to claim 21 wherein the trap base is a wire support base.

23. The mousetrap according to claim 21 wherein the trap base is formed from a substantially rigid material.

24. The mousetrap according to claim 23 wherein the material is an injection mouldable material.

25. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 24 wherein the trap mechanism operates independently of the enclosure geometry.

5 26. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 25 wherein the trigger is integral with the enclosure.

27. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 26 wherein the enclosure is a cardboard box.

10

28. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 26 wherein the enclosure is wedge-shaped cardboard .

29. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 28 .
15 wherein the trap mechanism further comprises a bait housing.

30. The mousetrap according to claim 29 wherein the bait housing is proximate the trigger and positioned at a
20 maximal distance from the aperture.

31. The mousetrap according to any one claims 20 to 30 in which the mousetrap is adapted for reuse, the trap mechanism being moveable from the second position to the
25 first position so as to reset the mousetrap and permit removal of a trapped mouse.

32. The mousetrap according to any of claims 20 to 31 in which the biasing means is a helical torsion spring.

30

33. The mousetrap according to any one of claims 20 to 32 further comprising a means to hang the mousetrap.